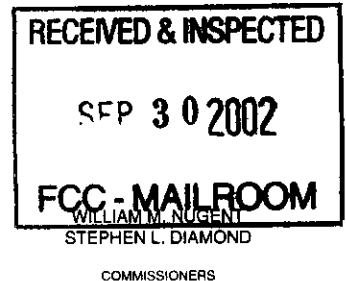




THOMAS L. WELCH
CHAIRMAN

STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
242 STATE STREET
18 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0018



September 26, 2002

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Magalie Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Portals II
445 12th Street, SW
Suite TW-A325
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Docket No. 96-45, Certification Letter Pursuant to the requirements of
47 CRR § 54.313, for the year 2003

Dear Ms. Salas:

On November 2, 1999, the FCC adopted a new mechanism to provide high-cost support to non-rural carriers. *In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, Ninth Report and Order and 18th Order on Reconsideration, CC Docket No. 96-45 (FCC 99-306), released November 2, 1999) (Non-Rural USF Order). That Order requires states to certify by October 1, 2002, that the non-rural carrier(s) in their jurisdiction will use the federal support in compliance with section 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. This certification letter is being submitted to satisfy that requirement.

In accordance with the requirements of that Order, the Maine Public Utilities Commission certifies that all the federal high-cost funds provided to our non-rural company, Verizon-Maine will be used in a manner consistent with the requirements of 47 U.S.C. § 254(e). To the best of our knowledge, all federal high cost support will be used only to support those services for which the support is intended.

Sincerely,

Dennis Keschl
Administrative Director

DK/llp
Attachment

cc: Universal Service Administrative Corporation

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THOMAS L. WELCH
CHAIRMAN

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WILLIAM M. NUGENT
STEPHEN L. DIAMOND
COMMISSIONERS

September 26, 2002

Magalie Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Portals II
445 12th Street, SW
Suite TW-A325
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Docket No. 96-45, Certification Letter Pursuant to the Requirements of the
RTF Order, for the year 2003

Dear Ms. Salas:

On May 10, 2001, the FCC adopted a modified mechanism to provide high-cost support to rural carriers. *In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, 14th Report and Order and 21st Order on Reconsideration, CC Docket No. 96-45 (FCC 01-157), released May 10, 2001 (Rural USF Order). That Order requires states to certify by October 1, 2002, that the rural carrier(s) in their jurisdiction will use the federal support in compliance with section 254(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. This certification letter is being submitted to satisfy that requirement.

In accordance with the requirements of that Order, the Maine Public Utilities Commission certifies that all the federal high-cost funds provided to rural companies in Maine will be used in a manner consistent with the requirements of 47 U.S.C. § 254(e). All federal high cost support will be used only to support those services for which the support is intended.

A list of rural LECs in Maine to which this certification applies is attached to this letter.

Sincerely,

Dennis Keschl
Administrative Director

DK/llp
Attachment

cc: Universal Service Administrative Corporation

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1. **China Telephone Company**
2. **Cobbosseecontee Telephone & Telegraph Company**
3. **Community Service Telephone Company**
4. **Hampden Telephone Company**
5. **Hartland St. Albans Telephone Company**
6. **The Island Telephone Company**
7. **Lincolntonville Telephone Company**
8. **Maine Telephone Company**
9. **Mid-Maine Telecom**
10. **Northland Telephone Company**
11. **Oxford Telephone Company**
12. **Oxford West Telephone Company**
13. **Pine Tree Telephone & Telegraph Company**
14. **Saco River Telegraph & Telephone Company**
15. **Sidney Telephone Company**
16. **Somerset Telephone Company**
17. **Standish Telephone Company**
18. **Tidewater Telecom, Inc.**
19. **Union River Telephone Company**
20. **Unitel, Inc.**
21. **Warren Telephone Company**
22. **West Penobscot Telephone Company**